

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference MM-V/PB60642	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/IB2004/004234	International filing date (day/month/year) 20.12.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 22.12.2003	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C07D487/04, A61K31/495			
Applicant SB PHARMCO PUERTO RICO INC et al.			

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.

3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:

- sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau a total of sheets, as follows:
 - sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).
 - sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.
- (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I	Basis of the opinion
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II	Priority
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 19.10.2005	Date of completion of this report 01.12.2005
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Name and mailing address of the International preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Wolf, C Telephone No. +49 89 2399-
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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/IB2004/004234

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
 - international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)
 2. With regard to the **elements*** of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

Description, Pages

1-76 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-30 as originally filed

- a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

 - the description, pages
 - the claims, Nos.
 - the drawings, sheets/figs
 - the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

 - the description, pages
 - the claims, Nos.
 - the drawings, sheets/figs
 - the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):

* If item 4 applies, some or all of these sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

- the entire international application,
 claims Nos. claims 24-30 in respect of industrial applicability

because:

- the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (specify):
 the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (specify):
 the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.
 no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. claims 24-30 in respect of industrial applicability
 the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing does not comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions in that:

the written form has not been furnished
 does not comply with the standard

the computer readable form has not been furnished
 does not comply with the standard

- the tables related to the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing, if in computer readable form only, do not comply with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-bis of the Administrative Instructions.

- See separate sheet for further details

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1-30
	No:	Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	
	No:	Claims	1-30
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-23
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

see separate sheet

Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

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Re Item III.

Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by therapy

For the assessment of the present claims 24-30 on the question whether they are industrially applicable, no unified criteria exist in the PCT Contracting States. The patentability can also be dependent upon the formulation of the claims. The EPO, for example, does not recognize as industrially applicable the subject-matter of claims to the use of a compound in medical treatment, but may allow, however, claims to a known compound for first use in medical treatment and the use of such a compound for the manufacture of a medicament for a new medical treatment.

Claims 24-30 relate to subject-matter considered by this Authority to be covered by the provisions of Rule 67.1(iv) PCT. Consequently, no opinion will be formulated with respect to the industrial applicability of the subject-matter of these claims (Article 34(4)(a)(I) PCT).

Re Item V.

The following documents are cited in the International Search Report:

- D1: US-B1-6 313 124 (HE LIQI ET AL) 6 November 2001 (2001-11-06)
- D2: WO 97/29109 A (JANSSEN PHARMACEUTICA N.V; NEUROCRINE BIOSCIENCES INC; CHEN, CHEN; WEB) 14 August 1997 (1997-08-14).

In the light of the prior art cited above the subject matter claimed appears to be novel but to lack an inventive step (Articles 3(2) and (3) PCT).

D1 and D2 disclose structurally closely related compounds to the present application which are also effective as CRF receptor antagonists. They differ structurally mainly from some of the claimed compounds in that the portion Het (present application) is aromatic in the compounds of the present application and a non-aromatic heterocycle in the compounds of D1 and D2.

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The technical problem of the present application was the provision of further compounds useful as CRF receptor antagonists.

In the light of the disclosure of D1 and D2 the skilled person faced with the task of solving said problem would have arrived at the claimed compounds without inventive ingenuity. D1 and D2 disclose an aryl substituent Ar with a variety of possible substituents which inter alia are non-aromatic heterocycles. In the compounds as claimed this heterocyclic portion Het is aromatic but in the light of the various other possible substituents disclosed in D1 and D2 on said position (halo, amino, nitro, alkyl, cycloalkyl etc.) which all lead to compounds having the crf-antagonistic effects the structural modification of non-aromatic to aromatic appears to be minor.

Re Item VIII.

The term "prodrug" in the claims is considered to be unclear (Article 6 PCT).